

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

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JIM HILL AND THE PUBLIC.

JIM HILL, the so-called "Empire Builder," Tuesday celebrated his 75th birthday at Glacier Park Montana. It is a notable event in many respects, for one reason because Jim Hill is a remarkable man. We have never taken much stock in the idea that he was doing great things for the country, for the simple reason that we recognized the fact that he was doing them first, last and all the time for the greater glory and wealth of Jim Hill.

We are finding no fault with him for this, for it is human nature. He was simply doing what he did just as the rest of us are in our smaller way trying to do—better our condition. We can see no especial reason for any extra adulation for him on this account. That his railroads are beneficial to the state is cheerfully admitted, but that they are also beneficial to Jim Hill must not be lost sight of before we go to putting him on a pedestal, and doing him homage.

There is one thing about him, though, that is different from most if not all the rest of the heads of corporations, and this is what gives him his popularity. The Capital Journal has time and time again called attention to the fact that the good will of the public is one of the most valuable assets any public utility company can have. Jim Hill learned this about 25 years ago, and since that time he has been pointed out as being bigger and better than any or all of his railroad confreres. Up to that time Hill was like all the balance of the big railroad managers, and thought the public had no rights as far as his roads were concerned, than to pay such bills as were presented it, and ask no questions.

He suddenly woke up to the fact that railroads were public servants, not public masters, and that being such they were open not only to criticism, but to direction to a certain extent, by that public. He changed his tactics, and began taking the public into his confidence. From that date his success was assured. The people had faith in him, and whatever Jim Hill said was considered all right. He began to watch the little things about his management and correct the little petty things that annoy and anger the traveling public, and to do this of his own motion without waiting for the public to get sore and kick. As a result his roads are free from much that is objectionable on other roads, and the public appreciates it. It is in this respect that Jim Hill differs from the balance of the big railroad men, and it is for this that his birthday is recalled and honored. When some of the other roads, or their managers wake up to this important feature in corporation management it will not be necessary for the newspapers to keep hammering at them to get the service and the convenience the public is entitled to. Jim Hill would not have carsteps so high on his street cars that all the women patrons would be kicking about it. He would at least disinfect a traveling pest house before he tried to use it as a street car. He would do this not in the interest of the public, but in the interest of Jim Hill, and he would have a pleased lot of patrons instead of a traveling society of fault finders. He would weigh the cost of putting easy steps on the cars against the good will of the public about two minutes, and then he would order the changes made that the public demanded. Other companies do these things after the public patience is worn out, do them grudgingly, and when they are forced to do them. They pay just as much money as Jim Hill, but he does it in such a way that the public is pleased, while the other superlatively dense officials spend their companies' money and secure the ill will of the public while doing it.

It is perhaps unwise to look a gift horse in the mouth, or to inquire into the motives of men so long as we get what we want; and it is well to help James celebrate his birthday, if for no other reason, just because he has a modicum of horse sense; a thing that seems to be laid aside whenever a man gets charge of any public utility business.

We take our hat off to Jim Hill and congratulate him on his vigorous condition on this his 75th birthday, not because he has done anything for the northwest, not because he is a brevet "empire builder," but just because he is the one railroad builder who looks at railroad management from the public's side of it as well as from that of the railroad.

Because he has set an example in this line that is certain to bear fruit and which other railroad managers will sometime in the future all recognize as right, and adopt.

THE CORPORATIONS ARE BLIND.

THE COAL TRUST, through its brilliant coterie of lawyers has so far been able to find a loop hole in every law that the government has made for the purpose of controlling or regulating it, and has succeeded in dodging every attempt to bring it to terms. It has, whenever cornered, found some way of evading the law by so changing its affairs as to comply with the letter of the law, but still to violate its spirit and intent. This speaks well for the ability of its lawyers, but it does not make nearly so good a showing for its judgment. Just such trusts as the coal combination, and just such actions as it indulges in have caused a widespread idea that it is time not only to regulate such corporations, but to put them out of business entirely. They are teaching Socialism, and doing it with the aid of illustrations, and examples.

The people are awakening to the fact that these corporations are dealing with a product necessary to life; that this product at one time belonged to all the people; that at almost nothing an acre these valuable coal, iron, lead, copper, oil and other mineral lands were secured by these companies, through the lack of foresight of the people's lawmakers, that they were passed from public to private ownership by such lawmakers without just compensation, and that now that the corporations have possession of these properties, they are using them to levy an unjust tax on the people from whom they got the lands, to make the people pay unholly prices to get back that which but a short time ago was theirs.

The result is already seen in the sentiment this action on the part of these exploiters of the people is arousing. The fires of discontent are smoldering and the least match will cause them to burst into flame. The people are ripe for a movement to take over these properties, to restore them to the masses,

and this not at the fictitious values the corporations would place on them, but at a price, which while much greater than that paid by the present owners, would still be so far below what the companies hold their lands at for all purposes except taxation, that it will be virtually a confiscating of them.

There is an idea materializing that the government should own all coal and other mineral lands, and that it should operate them for the benefit of the whole people. Puffed up with their ill-gotten gains, these big corporations are handling their business on "the people-be-damned" basis, and they are digging their own graves in so doing.

There are still vast areas of mineral lands, in Alaska especially, and there is an idea rapidly forming that these should be kept in the possession of the government and that they should be operated by the government and their products sold to the public at practically the cost of production. This, and the taking over of some of the coal mines in the east as suggested, would put the general government in active competition with these big robber barons and force their hands. If the present tactics are kept up by such combinations as the coal trust, this state of affairs will come about much quicker than even its most ardent advocates dream of.

The corporations have ridden the people to desperation, if not death, and there is going to be some bucking done that will make the best effort of the Pendleton cayuses seem like the wriggling of a fish worm.

New York has also discovered that there is gold in the garbage can. Under the system now in operation the city pays a sanitary company \$50,000 a year to dispose of its refuse, but after January 2, 1914, the garbage will be sold the contractor, who has undertaken to pay \$62,500 for the first year, \$87,500 for the second year and \$112,500 for the third year, and the same amount for each of the two succeeding years, if the contract is renewed.—Ex.

The Republican breastworks of which so much at times, political times, is said, is where the big corporations get their pay.

The Corvallis Gazette-Times thinks fade are carried too far when the good old roller-towel is put on the tabooed list, and it is right. However, the old printing office towel that is stood up in the corner while the devil sweeps, is still allowed its liberty, and that is something saved from the wreck of systems and the ruin of old-fashioned ideas due to the never-ending crop of faddists.

The Oregonian of Wednesday says: "If Mr. LaFollette has signed his own death warrant he cannot and will not seek to fix the blame elsewhere." This is undoubtedly true, but it is far from true that he has signed his own death warrant. There are many who think he did the wisest and most courageous thing of his life in voting as he did on the tariff bill.

Thaw should be kept in the "down east" states for that is where he will be most appreciated when the thermometer gets down to 40 or 50 below.

GRAND JURY TO MEET HERE SEPTEMBER 24

Change Is Made in Order Not to Conflict With State Fair and Petit Jurors Announced.

On account of the grand jury date conflicting with the state fair date this year, the time for convening the jury has been advanced on the calendar from September 29 to September 24.

The following jurors have been chosen for the October term:
Arthur H. Moore, Salem 4.
T. J. Smith, Stayton.
John Giebler, Stayton.
Ernest Hoefler, Champog.
Adam Snyder, Brooks.
E. S. Lutgen, Scott's Mills.
A. J. Caldwell, Stayton.
Robert Tindall, Chemawa.
J. M. Hollingsworth, Silver Falls.
S. A. McFadden, Salem 8.
Hans Tuffli, Salem 5.
Edw. Rostein, Salem 6.
J. P. Minch, Rosedale.
Jacob Siegfried, Silverton, E.
G. G. Evans, Silverton, N.
Noah Welch, Fair Grounds.
John Duffy, Mill City.
D. C. Davenport, Silverton, S.
A. R. Siegmund, Gervais.
E. G. Siegmund, Mohama.
B. Pearson, Marion.
Geo. Sweeney, Monitor.
T. H. Leath, Woodburn, E.
Geo. W. Shand, Salem 4.
Ira Erb, Salem 4.
W. H. Armstrong, Salem 7.
Louis Simon, St. Paul.
N. J. Gehlen, Stayton.
W. H. Steusloff, Salem 8.
Pat Fennell, Salem 4.
D. McHenry, Salem 3.

THE ROUND-UP.

A mortgage on timber lands has been filed in Lane county to secure payment of \$1,000,000. It was made by the Portland Timber company.

Two fishermen engaged in a fight while crossing the Columbia near Astoria Tuesday, and falling overboard, both were drowned.

The Tillamook county fair was a success, and the secretary reports a surplus of \$300 in the treasury.

The school fair held at Drain Saturday was a great success. The exhibits were many and of fine quality, surprising all at their excellence.

Klamath county will have both the state fish hatcheries to be built next year. One will be on Spencer creek, and the other at Odell Lake.

S. S. Shortridge received a severe scalp wound and a fracture of the skull when a pulley on the edge on which he was working at Cottage Grove flew to pieces Monday morning.

Eugene schools opened Monday with a staff of 80 teachers.

Owing to trouble in getting its right of way, the Falls City Lumbering company has asked Independence for an extension of time in which to complete its mill at that place. It is

building the Siletz Valley railroad, which will open a big tract of timber tributary to Independence, and it can get no logs until this is completed.

The Medford Ministerial association has filed a complaint with the city council against the rag dances held on the streets there during the recent fair.

Fifteen of the best marksmen in the Oregon militia were selected by Adjutant-General Finzer to visit Vancouver, B. C., and compete in the North-western international rifle matches, to be held on the Richmond rifle ranges, near that city.

Adolf Bergstrom, working in a logging camp near Astoria, was instantly killed by a falling tree, Tuesday.

Some promising coal veins discovered near Florence last summer are being opened, and give promise of being valuable properties.

Oswald C. Hansel, who killed ex-Judge Frank J. Taylor at Astoria a few days ago has been indicted by the grand jury on a charge of murder in the first degree.

BARNEY O'NEIL MUST SERVE TERM IN PENITENTIARY

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Boise, Idaho, Sept. 18.—B. F. Barney O'Neil, former president of the defunct State Bank of Commerce, of Wallace, must serve an indeterminate term of from two to 10 years in the Idaho penitentiary, for the supreme court last night affirmed the judgment of the district court of Kootenai county. O'Neil was convicted on the charge of making false reports to the state bank examiner of the financial condition of the Wallace bank.

O'Neil, formerly a prominent business man and politician in Idaho, is now in jail at Coeur d'Alene, having been unable to furnish bond.

MINISTER GUILTY OF IMMORALITY AND FALSEHOOD

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Chicago, Sept. 18.—The Rev. W. G. Hammer, for 12 years general conference evangelist for the Free Methodist church, and for the last year pastor of the St. Charles (Ill.) Free Methodist church, was found guilty yesterday of misconduct and expelled from the conference. The charge against Rev. Mr. Hammer was "immorality and falsehood." An appeal was taken to the general conference.

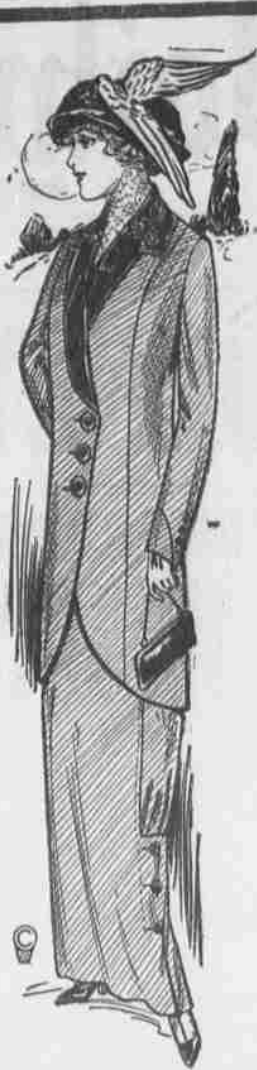
The charges are believed to have originated in Alameda, Cal.

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The greatest showing in Salem of popular priced garments. Only up to hour styles shown.

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\$4.90 \$7.90

\$10.50

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\$10.50 and

\$12.50

SHIRT WAISTS

49c 75c 98c

\$4.50 SILK

PETTICOATS

\$2.45

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Come here for the best bargains in Salem. Stylish new hats now on sale

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20,000 Yards of New Silks and Dress Goods

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\$1.25

and up

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Girls' School Dresses

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25c 35c 49c

75c

and up

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Refreshing—Satisfying—Invigorating

Extra! Extra!

For the first time in the history of Salem the people of Marion and Polk counties can secure all kinds of sacks at right prices in this city, instead of spending their time and money in going to Portland. We are paying one cent a pound for all kinds of rags. We are also paying \$13 per ton for all kinds of cast iron. Highest prices paid for all kinds of old clothes, household goods and furniture. We buy and sell everything from a needle to a piece of gold. All kinds of tools and machinery and pipe bought and sold. The house of a million bargains.

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